



## MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

### Special Meeting

Mammoth Lakes, Sierra  
Center Mall, Social  
Services Conference  
Room, 3rd Floor

**August 19, 2008**

6:15 p.m. Meeting Called to Order by Chairwoman Bauer  
*Supervisor Reid was absent due to attendance at an RCRC meeting.*

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Hazard

### OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Stephen Kalish: Swall Meadows resident talked about issues involving Verizon, including an old telephone line that makes service inadequate; a fiber optic cable in a conduit that is an eyesore (Kalish would like the fiber optic cable to be put underground); use of County roads for cables (the existing franchise agreement only applies to electrical lines and not communication lines). A franchise agreement with Verizon would allow the County to collect a 2% fee. There are approximately 889 homes from Paradise to Crowley Lake that Verizon is proposing to pass by and not provide service (Verizon has not applied for grant funds that would help underserved areas). Verizon also violates the scenic highway requirements. Would like an answer from the County whether or not Verizon has authority to be on County roads.

- Marshall Rudolph: The Board has been briefed previously on the issues raised by Mr. Kalish, and County staff has responded to Mr. Kalish on many occasions.
- Allen Berrey: The public utilities code does require under-grounding of cables in the vicinity of a scenic highway; however, a utility can request a deviation, which Verizon has done. The PUC has notified interested parties, including Mono County, advising the parties of Verizon's request; there will be a public comment period. The Board can conduct a public hearing on this issue after PUC gives direction. The County has researched this and the public utilities code allows Verizon to use the County right of way; they have a right to use California Edison's poles under state and federal regulations.

Supervisor Bauer suggested agendaizing the matter for a public hearing. Supervisor Hazard said many members of County staff are working on this issue at a County-wide level and it should come to the Board when the time is right.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

*Reports were given at the Regular Meeting; there were no new reports for this meeting.*

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

- 1) CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (David Wilbrecht)  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.  
*Report was given at the Regular Meeting; there was no new report for this meeting.*

- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
*There are no minutes to approve.*

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES**

**Dan Lyster** reported on the following: 1) Provided a copy of an energy report from the High Sierra Energy Foundation. 2) Reported about the big horn sheep. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service report provides recommendations; there is no more information available about disease transmission. The Fish and Wildlife Service received the County's resolution and acknowledged the input. It is good management to keep domestic and big horn sheep separate; this won't impact management on Conway Ranch. The shepherd will keep a close watch of his herd, and will report sightings of big horn sheep; Fish and Game will then be notified, and the shepherd will move the herd until the big horn is gone.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved on one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item.)

### **CLERK OF THE BOARD**

- 3a) Consent Agenda  
*There are no items on the Consent Agenda.*

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (INFORMATIONAL)**

All items listed are available for review and are located in the Office of the Clerk of the Board

### **CLERK-RECORDER**

- 4a) Letter from Law Library Board of Trustees - Annual report submitted by the Law Library Board of Trustees.  
  
*Chairwoman Bauer acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.*

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 5a) Feasibility study for South County Parks and Recreation District (**Supervisor Byng Hunt and Dave Wilbrecht, County Administrative Officer**) -  
Presentation by Dave Wilbrecht, County Administrative Officer, on the concept of a South County Parks and Recreation District and use of a feasibility study to assess the interest and support of area residents. Potential terms for joint participation of the Town of Mammoth Lakes in the project will be offered for discussion.

**Action:** Receive a presentation on formation of a South County Parks and Recreation District and use of a feasibility study to assess public support. Consider and potentially authorize specific terms for joint participation with the Town of Mammoth Lakes in the project or other actions that may be desired.

David Wilbrecht: This has been an ongoing discussion with the Town for the last few years. In order to proceed, it will be beneficial to have a professional help test the market; the cost may be around \$50,000. Prior to this, however, the Board would need to have a consensus with the Town about joint participation. Since this is a South County concept, Wilbrecht suggested having the Board and Town Council determine community members who are interested in this issue, and forming a Blue Ribbon Committee to research it. The committee would then report back to the Town and County, and the public would be able to participate through a series of public hearings. The Town and County would then need to discuss whether or not to move forward with the next steps, such as gathering information from the public, and ultimately taking the issue to the voters.

Dana Stroud: The Town wishes to participate equitably and understands that their share would be about \$25,000, but funding is not allocated at this point. Depending on the Town Council's decision, they will review the budget to find the \$25,000. This process will provide information to determine whether or not the community is interested, and whether or not they are willing to fund the project. Stroud will introduce this topic at tomorrow's Town Council meeting and will put it on the Council's September 3<sup>rd</sup> agenda to ask for consensus to agree to support and participate in the Blue Ribbon Committee formation, with the option of making appointments at that meeting. The Town does consider the cost of maintaining current facilities before considering a new facility. However, this is an opportunity for a discussion about the future of recreational facilities and needs.

Marshall Rudolph: The ultimate form of the district might be a community services district. This process would also require participation from LAFCO. And the LAFCO process might result in a vote of the public, particularly if new assessments or taxes were involved. Prior to that process, if the County and Town so desired, they could put the concept of creating such a district on the ballot for an advisory vote to determine the level of public interest.

Supervisor Farnetti: If this went to a vote and taxes were involved, does it require a simple majority or a 2/3 vote? Rudolph: Probably a 2/3 vote because the district would be a special purpose agency.

Supervisor Hunt: This is a preliminary discussion in order to get people thinking about this project. He supported the idea of a Blue Ribbon Committee and a feasibility study. The Board has been considering ways for the Town and County to work together on financial matters that benefit both entities; this might be a project that will accomplish that goal. This issue has been discussed for several years. By working together in a new way, the Town and County can determine whether or not the public wants (and is willing to fund) the project. This Thursday is

the Town-County Liaison meeting and this issue can be discussed at that meeting. Hunt would like to see the initial phase proceed, and would like the County to take a leadership role.

Supervisor Hazard: Even though the Board has a goal to find joint Town-County projects, it may be hard to garner support in his district. Concerns include cost and access to those who live outside of Mammoth Lakes. These communities will need to believe the facility benefits them and not just the Town. The facility needs to be viewed as a regional recreation center and not just a Mammoth Lakes recreation center, with Mammoth being the most logical place to house the facility. It will be important to go through the initial process to determine community interest. Hazard would like to commit up to \$25,000 to fund the feasibility study.

Supervisor Farnetti: Supports the feasibility study. There is a need for recreational facilities, but a project like this needs to be community driven.

Chairwoman Bauer: Agreed that this will take a community effort. She asked if the Blue Ribbon Committee would be separate from the feasibility study. Wilbrecht: Staff can do some of the work within the scope of their jobs, but determining public opinion requires the help of a professional group. Can move forward with the Blue Ribbon Committee; will report back to the Board after completing this task. At that point, the idea will either move forward or end. If the public isn't interested, there is no reason to proceed.

The Board agreed with moving forward by forming a Blue Ribbon Committee, and suggested making appointments at their September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The Committee will consist of five members appointed by the Town and five members appointed by the Board. Dave Wilbrecht will put this item on the September 2<sup>nd</sup> agenda. Staff will start the process.

- 5b) Revenue and Cost Sharing for Inyo Mono Area Agency on Aging, FY 08-09 (**Dave Wilbrecht**) - Receive presentation by Dave Wilbrecht, CAO, regarding revenue and cost sharing for Inyo Mono Area Agency on Aging. Consider and potentially approve a letter detailing a proposal for cost and revenue sharing for submission to Inyo County. Provide any desired direction to staff.

**M08-174 Action:** Approve a letter (as revised) for submission to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors offering a conditional contribution from Mono County of up to \$75,000 to help cover a projected deficit in the FY 08-09 budget of the Inyo Mono Area Agency on Aging; authorize Tom Wallace or David Wilbrecht to sign the letter.

**Hazard/Farnetti, 4-0; Reid absent**

Tom Wallace: The proposed letter emerged out of the IMAAA governing board meeting last week. Wallace highlighted the following:

- There was agreement that Mono County would write a letter to the Inyo County Board proposing a cash subsidy under the condition that there is progress towards Mono County contracting directly with IMAAA to deliver services.
- Inyo County has decided to move their administration of IMAAA into the Health and Human Services Agency to save on costs.
- Because of new developments, the first draft of the letter doesn't address certain issues, such as the funding split between the two counties based on agreed-upon poverty indicators.
- It will take a number of months before Mono County can have a contract with IMAAA,

and there are a number of tasks to be done; the current arrangement may not change until mid year.

Considering these factors, Wallace crafted a revised letter (copies distributed to the Board). The new letter specifies (1) Mono County will participate up to \$75,000 (the actual amount may be \$40,000); (2) Mono County shouldn't share costs greater than the proportion of shared funding; (3) The value of the services being provided to Mono County are not equitable.

Wallace proposed the new letter since it should get a positive vote from the Inyo Board. More of the details, such as forming a transition committee, will be discussed at a meeting scheduled for Thursday. If Mono County receives 25% of state and federal revenue, that would generate about \$225,000 to be used to support services at the Walker Senior Center and delivery of in-home meals; fund a full-time social worker/public health nurse to do intensive case management and help people stay in their homes; budget for uncovered special expenditures, such as transportation support. The letter includes a point of agreement about how to implement the service contract in the current year, but there needs to be a more thorough assessment about splitting the funding year-to-year since the senior population is growing faster in Mono County than in Inyo County. Wallace asked the Board to authorize the most recent version of the letter so he can take it to the meeting on Thursday.

David Wilbrecht: The County has been working with IMAAA on this process for over a year. This solution is in the best interest of Mono County seniors. He recommended Board authorization of the letter.

Supervisor Hunt: Asked if Inyo County is aware of these terms.

- Wallace: Yes, this letter reiterates terms from last spring.

Supervisor Hazard: It will be important for Kevin (Carunchio) to be part of the upcoming meeting so he can support the plan. Regarding the \$225,000, Hazard asked if there is a general fund match.

- Wallace: The only on-going required match is a 25% match of administrative allocation.

Hazard: Asked if one public health nurse will be capable of carrying the patient load.

- Wallace: The standard is 50 open cases to 1 public health nurse; 25 cases would be more realistic. At this time, Wallace didn't know what the case load will be; IMAAA says Mono County only has two cases right now.

Supervisor Bauer: Expressed concern with the letter and the funding scenario, and the idea of helping Inyo County straighten out their budget.

- Wallace: The other option was to pull out of the arrangement, but the state indicated that Mono County may not get support by doing this. There is concern that Inyo County will do nothing if Mono County doesn't help solve the problem.

Supervisor Farnetti: Need to be sensitive to the senior population, and allow Inyo County time to get through the process. Farnetti asked if services will be enhanced by putting the program under the Health and Human Services Department.

- Wallace: Yes; the Health and Human Services allocation was under-utilized by about \$60,000 in 07-08 and this funding could be used in the senior program. The department may also be able to obtain grant funding.

Supervisor Hunt: Need to look after Mono County's interests and this will provide the ability to keep the program afloat; the funding split should grow over time as the senior population changes.

**Additional Departments:** Economic Development

- 5c) Energy Partnership Between Southern California Edison and The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments to be Named "THE EASTERN SIERRA ENERGY INITIATIVE" (**Rick Phelps, Executive Director**) - Consider and potentially adopt proposed resolution titled "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Mono County Declaring Support for an Energy Partnership Between Southern California Edison and the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments to be Named "The Eastern Sierra Energy Initiative". Receive staff report. Provide any desired direction to staff.

**R08-47**      **Action:** Adopt **Resolution R08-47** titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Mono County Declaring Support for an Energy Partnership Between Southern California Edison and the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments to be Named "The Eastern Sierra Energy Initiative".  
**Hunt/Hazard, 4-0; Reid absent**

Rick Phelps: The Eastern Sierra Initiative partnership with Southern California Edison involves Inyo and Mono Counties, the City of Bishop and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The resolution has been adopted by the City and Town, and it is on the agenda for the Inyo Board next Tuesday. The partnership will deliver documented kilowatt hours and savings; will allow money to be put into county facilities, and will continue outreach and education programs focused on signing up businesses for energy efficiency programs. They are still working with LADWP to resolve some program issues. In the fall, a *pro forma* agreement with jurisdictions will be provided. Phelps asked the Board to support the resolution.

- 5d) Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) request for Funds (**David Wilbrecht, Supervisors Bauer and Hunt**) - Receive presentation by David Wilbrecht, Supervisors Bauer and Hunt regarding a "Line of Credit" for \$100,000. Consider proposed agreement with ESTA for the provision of an advancement of funds.

**M08-175**      **Action:** Approve a line of credit up to \$100,000 to ESTA in the form of an agreement to be used to support operational ESTA expenses, proceeds from the line of credit to be paid back to Mono County at a rate equal to LAIF funds for a term not to exceed one year; approve County entry into proposed agreement with ESTA for the provision of an advancement of funds and authorize the County Administrator to sign said Agreement on behalf of the County.  
**Hunt/Farnetti, 4-0; Reid absent**

Supervisor Hunt: Mono County and the City of Bishop are each being asked to provide \$100,000; Mammoth Lakes has agreed to provide \$125,000. Inyo County is not stepping up. Hunt supports this request because it will assist in keeping ESTA viable. Grant money is available and funding may be increased through new federal legislation, but ESTA needs to get through this immediate period. Also, community forums show that the riding public would prefer increased fares rather than a drop in services, so fares will increase in the fall.

Chairwoman Bauer: ESTA will have serious cash-flow problems if the Board doesn't support this action and help give ESTA time to find funding sources to maintain service levels. She expressed confidence that ESTA will be able to correct the deficiencies.

Supervisor Hazard: Relayed a comment from Supervisor Reid who indicated that he had no concerns with the line of credit, but does want the \$55,000 authorized by the LTC to remain within Mono County. Hazard said people need public transportation and it is troubling that there isn't a backup plan. Hazard asked for assurance that the money will be paid back.

Supervisor Farnetti: Supports the action. Ridership is up so there is a need. Also, LTC has made a commitment to improve transportation.

Marshall Rudolph: This is a legally binding loan agreement; ESTA will have to pay it back, with interest, within the same fiscal year.

John Helm: Thanked the Board for considering this request to help with the short-term financial challenge caused by a reduction in state funding and a delay in receiving state funding. The short-term solution is to request a line-of-credit from the jurisdictions. This is legally binding and he assured the Board that the loan will be repaid as agreed to. This action is needed to keep the service afloat. ESTA will develop new funding sources at the federal level, develop a reserve fund and extend CREST services south to Lancaster, which will increase ridership. They will also scale expenses to revenue, and will address structural problems. Helm asked for the Board's support.

## ELECTIONS

- 6a) Election Polling Place in Mammoth Lakes (**Lynda Roberts**) - Use of the Mammoth Lakes High School gymnasium as the polling place for all five precincts in Mammoth Lakes.

**Action:** Receive information pertaining to a change in the Mammoth Lakes polling places.

Lynda Roberts: Checked a variety of public locations in the Town before going to the high school. Considered the new library, the college, the old library, and the social services conference room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Sierra Center Mall; none of these locations will accommodate five precincts. Then checked with the school district about using a school facility; the high school gym was recommended. Met with the principal of the high school to discuss various logistical issues; there is an issue with two doors at the back of the gym that don't lock. If this situation cannot be resolved, thus securing the facility 100%, will use the current polling places (Suite Z and the community center).

ADJOURN: 8:30 p.m.

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